

- 22 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus connected to a network to which a plurality of computers are connected in order to enable communication, comprising:

5       a storage section which receives and stores user identification information for identifying a user of a computer together with printing information from said computer;

10       a sheet counter section which prepares page information from said printing information; and

      a controller section which controls to print said user identification information and the page information on a back surface of a sheet.

15       2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

      a setting section which stores setting information for setting whether or not to print said page information and said user identification information received from said network,

20       wherein the controller section judges whether or not the page information and the user identification information are to be printed on the back surface of the sheet based on the setting information stored in said setting section.

25       3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sheet counter section uses the number of printed sheets as a total pages number and

prepares the page information, when the printing information is printed on both sides of the sheet.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said page information is prepared by  
5 addition in order of the discharged sheets.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said page information is prepared by subtraction from the total pages number in order of the discharged sheets.

10 6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller section prints the page information and the user identification information on an edge of the sheet opposite to a sheet discharge port from which the sheet is discharged.

15 7. An image forming apparatus connected to a network to which a plurality of computers are connected in order to enable communication, comprising:

a storage section which receives and stores printing information from the computer;

20 a sheet counter section which prepares page information from said printing information;

an identification information storage section which stores identification information applied to said each stored printing information; and

25 a controller section which controls to print the identification information applied to said printing information together with said page information on

- 24 -

a back surface of a sheet.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

5 a setting section which stores setting information for setting whether or not to print said page information received from said network,

wherein the controller section judges whether or not the page information and said identification information are to be printed on the back surface of the sheet based on the setting information stored in  
10 said setting section.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said sheet counter section uses the number of printed sheets as a total pages number and prepares the page information, when the printing  
15 information is printed on both sides of the sheet.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said page information is prepared by addition in order of the discharged sheets.

20 11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said page information is prepared by subtraction from the total pages number in order of the discharged sheets.

25 12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said controller section prints the page information and the identification information on an edge of the sheet opposite to a sheet discharge port

- 25 -

from which the sheet is discharged.

13. A method of operating an image forming apparatus connected to a network to which a plurality of computers are connected in order to enable communication, comprising:

receiving and storing user identification information for identifying a user of the computer together with printing information from the computer;

preparing page information from said printing information by a sheet counter section; and

printing said user identification information and said page information on a back surface of a sheet.

14. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a judging whether or not said page information and the user identification information are to be printed based on information of a setting section which stores setting information for setting whether or not to print said page information and said user identification information received from said network.

15. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said sheet counter section uses the number of printed sheets as a total pages number and prepares the page information, when the printing information is printed on both sides of the sheet.

16. The method of operating the image forming

- 26 -

apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said page information is prepared by addition in order of the discharged sheets.

5        17. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said page information is prepared by subtraction from the total pages number in order of the discharged sheets.

10       18. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a printing the page information and the user identification information on an edge of the sheet opposite to a sheet discharge port from which the sheet is discharged.

15       19. A method of operating an image forming apparatus connected to a network to which a plurality of computers are connected in order to enable communication, comprising:

receiving and storing printing information from the computer;

20       preparing page information from said printing information by a sheet counter section;

applying identification information to said each stored printing information from an identification information storage section which stores the identification information; and

25       printing the identification information applied to said each printing information together with said page information on a back surface of a sheet.

- 27 -

20. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a judging whether or not said page information and said identification information are to be printed based on  
5 information of a setting section which stores setting information for setting whether or not to print said page information and said identification information received from said network.

21. The method of operating the image forming  
10 apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said sheet counter section uses the number of printed sheets as a total pages number and prepares the page information, when the printing information is printed on both sides of the sheet.

15 22. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said page information is prepared by addition in order of the discharged sheets.

20 23. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said page information is prepared by subtraction from the total pages number in order of the discharged sheets.

25 24. The method of operating the image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a printing the page information and the identification information on an edge of the sheet opposite to a sheet discharge port from which the sheet is discharged.